

Craig Williams
York
LD 244

Good morning, Chair and members of the committee. My name is Craig Williams, and I am a social worker specializing in re-entry services. I strongly support LD 244, An Act to Provide Safe, Short-term Housing to Indigent Individuals Recently Released from Correctional Facilities. I'm here today because I've seen firsthand the devastating impact of homelessness on individuals leaving prison.

LD 244 is crucial because it addresses a critical gap in services. First, it provides a safe and stable environment for individuals to rebuild their lives. Without stable housing, it's nearly impossible to find a job, access healthcare, or reconnect with family. Second, this short-term housing can serve as a bridge to more permanent solutions, giving individuals the time they need to get back on their feet.

I understand that some may have concerns about the cost of this program. However, I believe that the long-term cost of not addressing this issue – including increased recidivism, healthcare costs, and strain on social services – far outweighs the investment in short-term housing.

In conclusion, I urge you to support LD 244. It's a common-sense solution that will help individuals reintegrate into society, reduce recidivism, and make our communities in Maine safer and stronger. Thank you for your time